

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-14, 16-18, and 23-32 are pending. Claims 2, 15, and 19-22 have been canceled without prejudice and without disclaimer. Claims 1, 6, 12, and 16-18 have been amended. New claims 27-32 have been added. No new matter has been introduced. Applicants believe the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 23-26 and the indicated allowability of claims 2, 3, 6-14, and 16-18 if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitation of original claim 2. Thus, claims 1 and 3-5 depending therefrom are patentable.

Claim 6 has been rewritten in independent form. Thus, claim 6 and claims 7-11 depending therefrom are patentable.

Claim 12 has been rewritten in independent form. Thus, claim 12 and claims 13-14 depending therefrom are patentable.

Claims 16-18 have been rewritten in independent form and, therefore, are patentable.

Original claim 3 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 27. Thus, claim 27 and claims 28-32 depending therefrom are patentable.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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